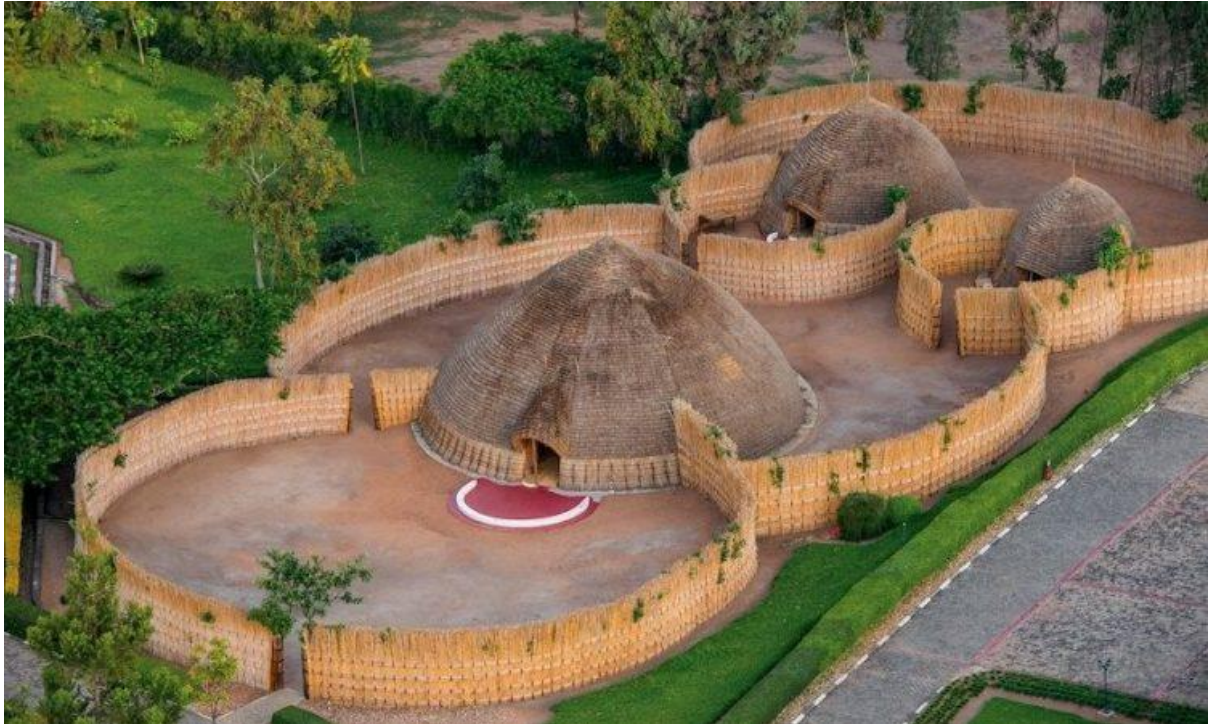


Nyanza Mwami Palace



Nyanza Mwami Palace (or King's Palace) is a living museum with a reconstruction of the ancient grass palaces of the original kings of Rwanda. It is positioned next to the modern palace built in the 1930s for Mutara III Rudahigwa, the last serving King of Rwanda. King Rudahigwa died in 1959 and Queen Rosalie was a victim of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. You can visit both palaces with a guide and we recommend paying the extra to sing to the royal cows.

The palace is open every day from 8 am to 6 pm (and from noon to 5:30 pm on umuganda). It costs around \$12, including the cows.

The drive down there takes around 2.5-3 hours. You take the main road to Southern Province and just keep going until you reach Nyanza, then follow the signs to the palace. The roads are good and the journey is suitable for beginners.

It's advisable to take snacks for the journey and plenty of water. There is a café at the palace which serves food, but options may be limited. There is also a town called Muhanga about halfway between Kigali and Nyanza where you can stop for food. Try Splendid Hotel, it's just off the main road and you can find it with Google Maps. They do a buffet lunch and menu, and they also have a swimming pool.